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L. 146. *Célimène*. The teacher familiar with his MOLIÈRE will at once recognize here the famous coquette of the "Misanthrope," but what will the poor student do, in whom Mr. PERRY had no right to presuppose any such knowledge?

L. 789. *Astre de la mer*. ST. BERNARD, who lived in the twelfth century (1090-1153), was the first to apply to the Virgin this appellation of *Stella Maris*, Star of the Sea. The passage in which he thus speaks of her is full of beauty, not to say poetry, but is too long to quote *in extenso*. I give just a few sentences:

"Ipsa est igitur nobilis illa stella ex Jacob orta, cujus radius universum orbem illuminat, cujus splendor et prae fulget in supernis, et inferos penetrat: terras etiam perlustrans, et califaciens magis mentes, quam corpora, fovet virtutes, excoquit vitia. Ipsa, inquam, est praeclara et eximia stella, super hoc mare magnum et spatiosum necessario sublevata, micans meritis, illustrans exemplis." (Sancti Bernardi Opera omnia, vol. i, p. 749. Parisiis, apud Claudium Robustel, mdccxix. Can be seen in the Congressional Library, Washington, D. C.).

L. 1041. . . . *L'impôt des huit mille hommes*. Neither Mr. PERRY nor Prof. KNAPP has any definite information on this tax for the "eight thousand men," and I am not sure that I have myself. NUÑEZ DE CASTRO, from whom HUGO may have taken the expression either directly or indirectly, mentions, in enumerating the revenues of Spain, a certain levy for *los ocho mil soldados*. A passage in VOLT-AIRE'S 'Siècle de Louis XIV' (ch. v) may throw some light on the question. He says: "Charles IV, ce duc de lorraine chassé de ses Etats, et à qui il restait pour tout bien une armée de *huit mille hommes qu'il vendait tous les ans au roi d'Espagne*, vint auprès de Paris avec cette armée." This was long before the time assigned to the action of the play, but the tax having been once laid, it continued to be collected; and as the duke is no longer receiving it (he died in 1690), CAMPOREAL appropriates it to his own use.

L. 1074. *Les montagnes bleues*. The editor, after mentioning several countries in which mountains of this name occur, makes the flip-pant remark that the reader may take his choice. Not at all. HUGO is sometimes absurd, but not so much so as this. He evident-

ly had in mind Jamaica, which had been a Spanish dependency from the time of its discovery by COLUMBUS up to 1655, when it fell into the hands of the English under Admirals PENN and VENABLES, who had been sent by CROMWELL against Hispaniola.

L. 1685. *Croix-maries*. Mr. PERRY confidently translates this by *cruzados*. That is well enough for all practical purposes, but why not tell us something about this strange word *croix-maries*? This explanation, by the *laquais*, of the money he brings to D. César was suggested to HUGO, as MOREL-FATIO has pointed out, by a passage in the 'Etat présent de l'Espagne' by the Abbé DE VAYRAC. Under the Austrian monarchy there was a silver coin in vogue called a *maria*, from the circumstance of its having on its obverse the name of the Virgin surmounted by a cross. The poet seems to have seized upon this fact and created the word *croix-marie*.

Finally it may be added that the *édition définitive* of Ruy Blas for class purposes has not yet been made. It may not be worth while to undertake to set right the many discrepancies originating in the poet's teeming imagination, in its riotous course through Spanish political and social history; but a great deal more in this line can and should be done. The teacher who wishes to go into this line of investigation will find some valuable aid in A. MORAL-FATIO'S 'Etudes sur l'Espagne,' première série (Paris: F. Vieweg, 1888).

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"WH" IN AMERICA.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS: Prof. HEMPL'S interesting remarks in the May number of the NOTES on the variation between *w* and *wh* will, it is to be hoped, induce many others to send observations on the point. I can speak only for my own dialect, but it is likely that what is true of that is also true of much though not all New England pronunciation. The rule stated by Prof. HEMPL is not observed by me, and I doubt if *wh* is ever in my dialect pronounced as *w*. The word

warf for *wharf* is very likely not the only case of its kind in New England now, and some time ago it certainly was not—at least for one dialect, that of the ‘Biglow Papers.’ It was this that suggested to me the possibility that *wh* in the present pronunciation might be partly due to the influence of the school-teachers. I do not remember, however, having expressed in print the opinion that that really is the explanation, even for New England only, though I was inclined to think so.

Prof. HEMPL’s conclusion that it is most likely that there has been no change in the larger part of our country looks not improbable, though I should hesitate to say “the larger part”; and the connection with last century English which is suggested as explaining the co-existence of *wh* and *w* (stressed and unstressed respectively) is tempting and probable. It may be difficult to establish such a connection, however, beyond possibility of reasonable doubt. The following comments are intended to stimulate further investigation by mentioning some difficulties, not necessarily all very great, and by suggesting other possibilities. 1. Some American peculiarities are quite possibly new developments in this country. A comparison of modern English dialects, which perhaps have not as yet varied very much from their last century forms, except so far as they have suffered influence from the “standard” English, or adjacent dialects, may often give light. 2. SWEET’s statement (‘Hist. of Eng. Sounds,’ § 918 end), as Prof. HEMPL says, is expressed only as a probability; it is not a certainty, and opinions may differ as to the strength of the probability. Moreover, not all dialects which have *w* for older *wh* necessarily made the change at the same time or even began it in the same century. 3. Is the pronunciation of *wh* as *h*+*w* (two consonants, one following the other) uncommon in America? The pronunciation as unvoiced *w*, a simple consonant related to *w* as *f* is to *v*, is not accepted by all Americans; see WHITNEY, ‘Oriental and Linguistic Studies,’ 2d series, pp. 268, 269. I think the pronunciation of *wh* varies in America as it very likely also varied in England in the last century and perhaps earlier, so far as it was distinct from *w*. Now unless we take *wh* as an unvoiced *w* the

comparison with *f* (*v*) in *of* (*ov*) and *off* (*of*) is hardly admissible. Indeed in any case the analogy is not quite exact, for in the one case the consonant follows the vowel, and similar cases where the consonant precedes are perhaps less numerous than those where it follows; compare the voiced *th* (*ð*) in certain pronouns and other words (*thou*, *this*, *there*, etc.), and on the other hand the *s* (*z*) in noun plurals and the third person singular of verbs. But whichever pronunciation we assume for *wh*, I think the sound which we should naturally compare is *h*, which in unaccented syllables tends to disappear (*tell 'im*, etc.), the living speech showing in the same word a variation between *h* and nothing, and here there seems to be one disagreement. Initial *h*, so far as I am aware, when beginning a sentence or a breath-group is not lost in American speech, even though the following vowel be unaccented; we do not omit the *h* in *he told me so*. Now the examples given for living usage by Prof. HEMPL appear to have *w* for *wh* in such cases, and for this I do not at this moment think of any parallel. To be sure, *wh* and *h* may not have had always a parallel history in English dialects; cf. the Norfolk dialects as treated by ELLIS, ‘Early Eng. Pron.,’ vol. v. (e.g. p. 272), with which may be compared his remarks on *wh* and *h* (p. 833), and the words (p. 236): “Thus in the Eastern United States, New York and Massachusetts, there is a tinge of Norfolk.” What he had in mind when this last was written I do not know. 4. It is conceivable that one or both of the exceptions mentioned by Prof. HEMPL (accented *wy*=*why* as an exclamation, and *warf*=*wharf*) are survivals from an earlier state of things. I suggest, however, that *warf* may have been an importation from some other dialect, perhaps carried into the West by settlers from the New England coast. 5. Is a foreign influence leading to *w* for *wh* entirely out of the question? The *wh* was probably harder than *w* for many of the immigrants from the continent of Europe. 6. The fact that all the examples given (except *warf*) with *w* for written *wh* are interrogative or relative words, may be of consequence. These are the commonest words beginning with *wh* in the language. How about nouns and verbs, such

as *wheel*, *whirl*, when stressed and unstressed? 7. Artificial influence seems rather unlikely as an explanation of the phenomena noted in Michigan, but it is not entirely impossible that it at least assisted the *wh* as distinct from *w*. But it is unnecessary to call in this factor if a satisfactory explanation can be reached without it. 8. Scotch or Irish influence has not been equally strong in all parts of the country, and in the New England of forty or fifty years ago and earlier it was presumably much weaker than in many other regions. How great the influence of New England speech in the Western States has been has yet to be investigated.

At some future time I hope to return to the subject of artificial influence, a careful treatment of which would, in my opinion, be of considerable value for dialect work in this country. The *wh* question would form but a part, and probably a comparatively small part, of such a treatment.

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BEDE AND RABBINICAL LITERATURE.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—In two recent papers ("The Name Cædmon" and "Old English Literature and Jewish Learning") I had occasion to collect some of the evidence tending to show an indebtedness of the Old English literature to Rabbinical tradition. A further indication of the same purport is contained in LAUCHERT'S 'Geschichte des Physiologus' (Strassburg, 1889), p. 96:

" . . . Beda (672-735), der zu Job 29, 18 (in Job 1. II. c. 12) die Geschichte vom Phönix anführt; schon Bochart (II. S. 819) hat bemerkt, dass Beda der einzige christliche Autor sei, der diese Stelle aus Job statt von der Palme (daneben auch) vom Phönix verstehe, während sich sonst diese Auffassung nur in rabbinischer Literatur finde."

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BRIEF MENTION.

The late U. S. Consul at Prague, CHARLES JONAS, has published a small volume of three

hundred pages entitled: 'Bohemian Made Easy: A Practical Bohemian Course for English-speaking People.' In a brief introduction, the author tells us that he has written this work in answer to frequent demands for a practical guide to Bohemian, and he gives some interesting statistics concerning the half million Bohemians, the Bohemian language, the origin and development of the Bohemian press, in America. He then divides his material into four parts: i, Pronunciation; ii, Grammar forms, with exercises after the Ahn method (150 pp.); iii, Conversation (90 pp.) and iv, Grammar proper (a sketch of 27 pp.). The characteristic features of the treatise are its simplicity and practical arrangement, the appropriateness of the words (with pronunciation indicated) and examples used to illustrate the grammatical rules and the numerous idioms that it contains. The little book might thus form an easy practical introduction to Slavonic, especially where an opportunity is offered to speak Bohemian. The descriptions of the sounds, however, leave much to be desired for the student who has no knowledge of Slavonic phonetics, as when the author speaks of the "mellow sound of *t*," or cites English *lid*, *lead* as having "the same vowel sound," or gives the rule for his language: *A sound for every letter and a letter for every sound and no silent letters*, illustrated by *Česká řeč*=chesská rshěch, *srdce*=sertsě, *tkadlec*=kädlets, *zkažte*=skäshtě, *svrchní*=sw*khñee, etc. (The *Slavie*, Racine, Wis.)

The Open Court Publishing Company of Chicago, has added another interesting number to its rapidly increasing list of important publications on psychology. 'The Diseases of Personality,' by TH. RIBOT, the distinguished professor of comparative psychology at the Collège de France, reads like a novel. The chapter treating of "Disorders of the Intellect," is perhaps the most interesting one of the book for the student of language. It covers a discussion of cerebral dualism, of the coexistence of two states of consciousness, of the rôle of memory, of ideas which, as representing states of consciousness, "are only a secondary factor in the constitution and changes of personality."